

Celebrate Savings
20% off Full Service Oil Change
 10W30, 5W30 or 5W20 w/coupon. Expires 7/31/20
Hoopeston Express Lube
 Rtes. 1 & 9, Hoopeston
 (217) 283-5373
www.quicklube4u.com

Small Wonders
 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION
First Presbyterian Church
 915 E Orange St, Hoopeston
 Call (217) 283-6229 or
 email smallwonders@fpchoopeston.com

The PIT STOP at FAST LANES

Monday:	Spaghetti or grilled and breaded Tenderloins
Tuesday:	Speedway Burger and Chicken or Beef & Noodles
Wednesday:	Rib eye sandwich and Prime Rib sandwich
Thursday:	Swiss Steak and Popcorn Shrimp
Friday:	Cod and Ribeye steak dinners
Saturday:	Prime Rib and Ribeye steak dinners

Breakfast Buffet Saturdays, 7-11 a.m.

Open Bowling
 Monday-Thursday, 4-9 p.m.
 Friday & Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

9 Pin Doubles League
 Wednesday at 7 p.m.

719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505

Email:
publish@justthefacts.net

Just the Facts

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
 Lourdine Florek, Owner

www.justthefacts.net

School plan to reopen is on the hot seat as staff, parents pepper board with questions

A plan to reopen Hoopeston Area Schools in the fall under COVID-19 restrictions came under fire at a special district board meeting Monday evening.

In broaching the subject, board President Dave McFadden said that since the plan was released last Thursday, board members have fended questions from the public, with feedback being "in my opinion, 100 percent negative."

The plan, developed by the district's learning committee, calls for students in grades 6-12 to be divided into Group A and Group B. Students would get 10 hours of in-school education each week, with Group A attending Monday and Thursday and Group B in school Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays would be remote learning days. There would be four hours of instruction and one hour of homework, reading or other educational activity.

Students through fifth grade would have in-school learning Monday-Friday under the proposal.

In both plans, students would be in class for five hours each day, dismissed at 1:05 p.m.

Phone calls were not the only way the board heard criticism of the plan. Playing to a socially distanced, mostly masked group of teachers and principals and a smaller group of unmasked constituents, more criticism came from attendees.

Some - predominantly teachers - were concerned about the possible effects from virus exposure on students and themselves.

Middle school Principal Michelle White said having 25 or 26 students in a classroom would make social distancing difficult. Also, she said, a high percentage of parents in a district survey said their children would not wear masks, "so we won't be able to contain exposure."

There are concerns with plans that would call for children to stay in the same classroom all day and those moving students to different rooms. "There's going to be someone who brings the virus in," she said. "There's nothing we can do about that."

Dylan Swank Hoopeston Education Association presi-

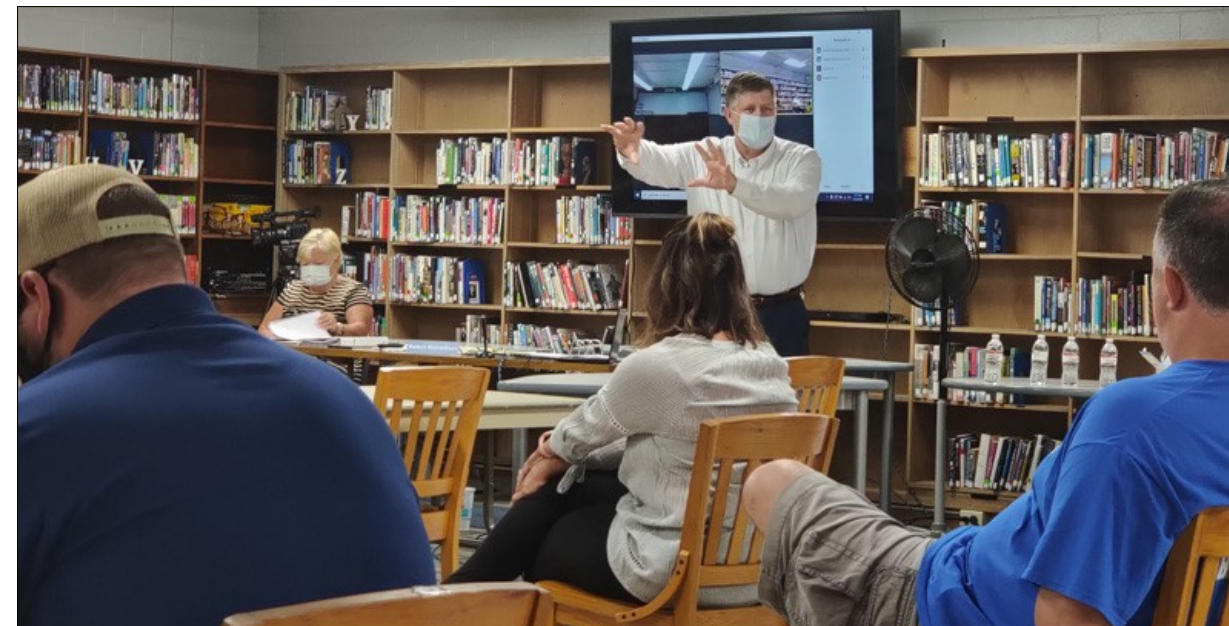


Photo by James Eyrich

Hoopeston Area Supt. Robert Richardson, standing outlines a plan for reopening school to principals, teachers and the public at a special board meeting Monday night.

dent, presented results of an HEA staff survey, showing 78 percent of staff ranked "the health and safety of my students" as the most significant concern to in-person education, followed closely by 75 percent who ranked "the health and safety of myself and my family" as their second concern. "One hundred percent of staff wants to be back in the building, but that's not the reality we're dealing with," he said.

Other concerns were the potential workload associated with in-person and remote learning at 68 percent, student discomfort with wearing a mask (63%) and ensuring all families have access to Wi-Fi (60%).

Nearly half of those responding to the survey said they,

or a family member, are considered "high risk" by Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 guidelines.

On the flip side, some parents questioned why Hoopeston Area could not follow in the footsteps of other districts - Rossville, Bismarck and Salt Fork - who have announced plans to have in-person learning five days a week.

Russ Walder, former board president, asked why Hoopeston Area could not do the same. "Are you ready for public backlash," he asked. "Are you ready if the public says 'no.'?"

Joe Walder also asked about daily attendance. "If I
 See PLAN on other side

From the Blotter

Jessica Wilson, 37, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 12:11 a.m. Monday at South Market and East Orange.

Wanted on a Benton County, Ind., warrant for failure to appear/possession of marijuana, she was also charged with possession of methamphetamine and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Stephen Spivey, 31, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were notified at 3:11 a.m. Monday of a

Plan continued from other side

want my child in school five days, why can't (that happen)?"

Addressing the risk of the virus, Russ Walder said people take risks every day. A whole busload of students could be killed or a child could get killed by a car while he's home by himself," he said, reminding the board that it is illegal for children 13 and younger to be home alone in Illinois.

McFadden asked if anyone contacted the districts to inquire about their plan. Supt. Robert Richardson said he spoke with Salt Fork Supt. Phil Cox, who basically said the district is going to five-day, in-person instruction and that parents who want remote learning will have to pay for it.

Richardson stressed the need to follow the state guidelines, because not doing so runs the risk of "willful and wonton misconduct. You might be fine, but if you end up in a courtroom, I want to be able to tell the judge, when he asks, 'did you follow the guideline?,' Yes, your honor, we did. If you make your own guidelines, Katie, bar the door. You're assuming the liability."

High school Principal John Klaber said he had a conversation with a representative of one of the districts who planned to have all day in-person learning, who said the district is backing away from that choice.

McFadden hammered home the point that the public must know that officials "turned over every stone and we exhausted every resource" to come up with the best plan for the district.

Teachers and parents expressed concerns about problems with remote learning in the spring, including a goodly percent of students not doing work because the state said their grades could not be lowered, technical issues and others.

possible break-in in the 200 block of East Washington.

Police allege Spivey opened the door to property that he does not live in.

He was charged with trespassing on a complaint from a 63-year-old Jacksonville man and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

A girl's Huffy Seastar bicycle was found Monday at Centennial Manor, 426 E Honeywell. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Eric Zorns, high school history teacher, said he had a smaller percent of students not doing work than many other teachers, but he was still unsatisfied. "I want the kids at home and the kids in the class to have the same experience," he said.

Zorns, also a parent of a middle school student and high school student, "is bound and determined not to let my kids be the forgotten generation."

Board member Rich Eisenmann said students will spend four hours each week on a bus to receive 10 hours of education. "I want to know face-to-face is a success," he said.

For Cheryl Steiner, technical issues were a problem at her home, as students could not print from Chromebooks. Network administrator James Eyrich answered that settings can be changed so that students can print to home computers, or even school printers and pick up the materials on in-person days.

The district will offer technical education to students and parents as part of remote learning, which, Curriculum Director Emily Brown said would not be like distance learning in the spring. "What we did in the spring was just, whoa!," she said. "We're working on a really good e-learning plan."

The plan will be comprehensive, Brown said, telling those attending that health officials who worked with the district to meet the guidelines "had their minds blown about all the things we have to consider to educate kids."

Richardson said he would contact the other districts to get information on their all-day plan and report to the board in a meeting to be held in the next few days. The board expects to make a decision at that meeting so principals and teachers can start filling in the framework with what is needed in their individual buildings.

Briefly

Blood drive scheduled

American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, July 24, at First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange, Hoopeston. Donors should schedule an

Obituaries

MARTIN - Dorothy Marie (Maul) Martin, 87, of Woodland, formerly of Hoopeston, died Friday, July 17, 2020, at Watseka Rehab & Health Care. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until the 10 a.m. graveside service Saturday at Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Memorials are suggested to the church. Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be let at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Available now: 726 S. Third St. 3 BR. \$475/mo. + security deposit. References.. (217) 304-3477 for application. Owner/Lic. real estate agent

HELP WANTED

Kitchen and delivery persons needed. Apply in person at [Pizza King 111 E Main St Hoopeston](#).

Daytime bartender. Application can be filled out at [Hubbard Trail Country Club, 13937 E 3680 North Rd., Hoopeston](#)

Full Time Tire and/or mechanic experience helpful. Apply in person at [Smitty's Dual Wheel 8 miles west of Rossville](#)

Teasdale Latin Foods has immediate openings on 2nd shift in both Distribution and Manufacturing. Pay to be determined based on experience level. Stop by the Human Resources office at 215 West Washington Street, Hoopeston, for more detail. Please no phone calls.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL are offering many job opportunities for full time and part-time positions. We offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. 1st and 2nd shifts are available.

Chemical Lab Supervisor-prior experience working in a chemical laboratory.

IT Assistant- Troubleshooting and maintaining computers and programs in the facility. Both positions are Full-time Day shift M-F with a full benefit package.

If you are interested in applying for a growing company, please apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

Silgan Containers is hiring a Production Manager/Supervisor Trainee. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.vmua.hrdepartments.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10730

appointment online at www.redcross blood.org (sponsor code Hoopeston) or at 1-800-RED-CROSS. COVID-19 antibody tests will be provided to all donors at this drive.

Honeywell rummage sale

Hoopeston Area School District will hold a rummage sale at Honeywell School from 7:30-3:30 Saturday. Chairs, tables, bookshelves and other miscellaneous items will be available.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight, tomorrow. High today 85, low 67. Tomorrow, high 84, low 67.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

We are currently hiring for our Verizon location next to McDonald's in Hoopeston! Are you interested in pursuing a career in sales where you can earn a base plus commission? Then this position might just be for you! If you like sales, love technology and have a competitive spirit you may have what it takes to join our amazing team! You'll use your knowledge and passion for technology to deliver an effortless customer experience while pursuing challenging and rewarding goals! This role comes with an hourly base and commission package as well as awesome benefits. Please email your resume to seth.wilson@alstiremart.com or stop by our store for more details.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time and part-time positions. We offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. 1st and 2nd shifts are available. We also offer a unique opportunity to choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle - choose to work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift.

We are now offering a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn extra cash during school hours, with an. 8 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fit the needs of your family. If you are interested in applying for a growing company, please apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

Email publish@justthefacts.net
or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!